

Join us at our PlayDay with coach Melita Denny

Sat., Nov. 8

Hillside—An Urban Sanctuary
1422 Navellier St., El Cerrito CA 94530

- 9-9:30 AM – Set up (bring a stand, tune), coffee, snacks and conversation.
- Be ready to play by 9:30.
- 9:30-10:45 AM – Group session with coach
- 11:00-12:30 – Coached consorts
- 12:30 PM – Bring a bag lunch to enjoy
- 1-2:30 PM – Uncoached DIY consort playing

Melita Denny fell in love with the viol at age 14. Her connection to the instrument and its music has been encouraged by the amazing community of early music enthusiasts including the wonderful folks of the Pacifica VdGSA chapter (thank you!). She teaches writing and music history courses at the SF Conservatory of Music and leads early music ensembles at UC Davis where she feels lucky to create opportunities for young people to play the viol.

Melita's interest in chamber music often connects instrumental and vocal music. She enjoys adapting motets, madrigals, chansons, and even masses for viol ensemble. Other musicological interests include canons and musical puzzles as well as the patterns of repetition and variation found in old music from cantus firmus masses to basso ostinato pieces.



Mille regretz was one of the most popular song of the early sixteenth century. This chanson, often attributed to Josquin des Prez, was said to have been a favorite of King Charles I of Spain. Spanish composer Cristóbal de Morales wrote a six-part mass setting that shows an amazing exploration of re-harmonization of melodies from the chanson.

For this month's PlayDay, we will explore Morales' musical borrowing by playing the original chanson alongside a few excerpts from the mass, including two different versions that Morales wrote for the Agnus Dei.

Registering for our PlayDay

Deadline: NOON, WEDNESDAY, Nov. 5

1. Go to [our website](#) and log in. (Note: each member logs in and signs up separately.)
2. Under Events / PlayDay Registration, fill out and submit the form. A confirmation email will follow.



**Barefoot Chamber Concerts
presents**

**Decadence – Music by
Rameau, Forqueray and more**

Friday, Nov. 21, Berkeley
6:30 PM, Saint Mary Magdalen Church Parish Hall

Cynthia Black – violin
Peter Hallifax – viol
Katherine Heater – harpsichord

The “Pièces de Clavecin En Concert” by Rameau that bookend this concert are indeed great and innovative chamber music, but they show where Rameau’s real genius lay – in opera. They are dramatic, and would make great movie scores, if anyone was to brave enough to create the movie to match the music.

Rameau was also a famous harpsichordist, so the obligato harpsichord parts (which can be played on their own without the violin and viol parts) are highly virtuosic as well as colorful. The violin and viol parts, however, do add dynamism, as you will hear.

The program is completed with some amazingly flashy music by Forqueray for viol and continuo and some fabulous violin music TBA.

\$25 (no one turned away for lack of funds).
You can reserve a seat in advance (and sit in the front rows) by emailing info@barefootchamberconcerts.com, and then paying at the door.

PlayDay snax & coffee

This year we are asking participants to periodically bring a snack for the group.

This month those with last names O to Z are asked to please bring a snack – either savory or sweet – to share at our Nov. 8 PlayDay during our 9-9:30 and mid-morning breaks. Thanks!

(In December we’ll start again with A-G.)

NEW– COFFEE PICKUP

We’re going with a new coffee plan for our Playday. On our registration form, you’ll see a new check box – **we’re asking for a volunteer to pick up**



coffee the morning of the PlayDay and bring it by 9:15 AM latest.

Our PlayDay Coordinator Allison will pre-order and pre-pay for it. Our volunteer would then pick up the box of brewed coffee (and the cups, sugar, creamer & stirrers that come with) that morning from the El Cerrito Peet’s, which is about 2 miles southwest of Hillside Church at 9895 San Pablo Ave.

If more than one person volunteers, Allison will choose one, and email them the receipt. **If no one volunteers... no coffee!**

Thanks for your help!

Voices of Music presents

The Voice of the Viol:

Petrucchi—the first music printer

In 1501, Ottaviano Petrucci revolutionized the music world with the development of music printing. In his many books he published the best composers of his time, including Josquin, Isaac and Marchetto Cara.

Join us for a concert of vocal and instrumental music performed on early renaissance instruments including our new set of early renaissance viols.

Singer Danielle Reutter-Harrah will join us.

Fri., Nov. 7, Palo Alto

7:30 PM, First Congregational Church of Palo Alto

Sat., Nov. 8, San Francisco

7:30 PM, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Sun. Nov. 9, Berkeley

7:30 PM, First Congregational Church

For details and tickets:

<https://voicesofmusic.org/Concerts.html>

Early Music Open Mic Night

Wed. Nov. 19, El Cerrito

7-8:30 PM, Hillside – An Urban Refuge

This friendly event is your opportunity to perform early music (before 1750) in a casual cabaret-style setting. All welcome! Join us for light snax and wine!

Donations by performers and audience members are appreciated to help cover the cost of the venue and snax.

Next: Special program Wed. Dec. 17

(In lieu of the regular December Open Mic.)

NOTE: Starting in January, EMOM's regular monthly date will be the third Friday, 7-9 PM.

This change is happening because Hillside needs our former fourth Wednesday slot.

Amherst Early Music

Two online classes for viol players:

Find your Treble Viol Voice

10 AM-11:30 AM PT, Nov. 1

Annalisa Pappano, viol

Do you play treble viol but feel under-served beyond practicing your consort parts? This course is designed just for you! We'll work on achieving a beautifully resonant tone, while exploring repertoire that moves beyond the typical bass-viol focus.

Open to intermediate and above level treble viol players. Music is provided in advance.

Pitch: A=415.

Three's Company—

Viol trios from the Tudor & Stuart Eras

10:00 - 11:30 AM PT, Dec. 6

Rosamund Morley and Lawrence Lipnik, viols

Explore a century of viol trios from Henry VIII's Songbook – music by Byrd, Edward and Orlando Gibbons, Bevan, Holborne, Lupo and Coprario. Each piece will be played three times, each time with a different part left out, so everyone can enjoy playing a trio with us.

Geared to intermediate - advanced viol players, but all are welcome. Pitch: A= 415.

Each class is \$30. For more info, and to register, click [HERE](#).

Winterlude with Shira Kammen- sign up now!

On Wednesday, December 17 at 7 pm, Early Music Open Mic is gathering local singers and instrumentalists for an informal semi-rehearsed program of seasonal medieval/Renaissance pieces directed by Shira Kammen.

If you are interested, or want more info, email Heather Wilson: hi2dougan@gmail.com.

Thank you to Alice Benedict for recruiting great coaches for our new season!

Pacifica Viols PlayDays 2025-2026

Sept. 13: Julie Jeffrey
Oct. 11: Elisabeth Reed
Nov. 8: Melita Denny
Dec. 13: David Miller
Jan. 10: Wendy Gillespie
Feb. 14: Erik Andersen
Mar. 14: Shira Kammen
Apr. 11: David Morris*
May 9: Farley Pearce
June 13: Pacifica BASH

**Voices and Viols*



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Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society
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